

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

March 13, 2015  
9:30 A.M.  
ROOM 312

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK  
FORCE TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC,  
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP  
DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 47. This measure would request that the Department convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii. The Department supports the intent of the resolution but has strong reservations.

The Department is concerned that the task force is being asked to address a complicated issue within a very short time frame and with no additional resources. One of the tasks being set forth by the resolution is to determine population sizes, ranges, and distributions of pests and endangered species. A study of this type for just one species can take years, and the resolution itself is not specific to any one species but for invasive and endangered species in general. For example, a recent study on the impacts of little fire ant that was recently released by the University of Hawaii took years to complete. Furthermore, the resolution asks for the inclusion of the Invasive Species Committees on each respective island but does not provide resources to allow for these representatives to participate.



Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

DAVID IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
CARTY S. CHANG  
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE**

**Friday, March 13, 2015  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Room 312**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 47  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK  
FORCE TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC,  
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP  
DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII**

House Concurrent Resolution 47 would request the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to convene a multiagency task force, including the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and a representative from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, to collect data regarding the impacts of invasive and endangered species on crops in Hawaii. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the impacts that invasive species in Hawaii have on agricultural enterprises. The Department is also the administrative host of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), through which the Department has encouraged both environmental and economic analyses of invasive species impacts. With regard to the task force and activities described in this measure, the Department notes that there is no formal list or designation of invasive species at this time, and that the task force would need to determine which species would be included in the analysis.

The Department further notes that the HDOA maintains a list of agricultural pests, per Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 141-3, which is detailed in Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 69A. HAR 69A, "Pests for Control or Eradication," details 86 species and three genera of designated pests that have agricultural impacts. These are not, however, designated as "invasive species" and the task force would need to consider whether or not to include each pest in the analysis described in this measure. HAR 69A-3 dictates that pests on this list have documented economic impacts to agriculture. The Department suggests clarifying the activities described in this measure to ensure that they are not duplicative of existing efforts by the HDOA.

**CARTY S. CHANG**  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**DANIEL S. QUINN**  
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

**W. ROY HARDY**  
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

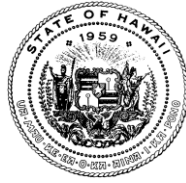
AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

The Department also notes that, should the task force wish to include in its analysis a species which is not already a designated pest per HAR 69A and for which there is not existing data regarding population distribution, rate of spread, and economic impacts on agriculture, that the production of this data through field surveys and research would be both time and cost intensive, and may not be available prior to the 2016 Legislative Session as described in this measure.

The Department also has jurisdiction of the conservation and management of endangered species, and many of the activities of the task force are currently part of The Department's duties. Similar to the invasive species, the Department would appreciate clarity on the endangered species referenced in the resolution, as we believe that combining these species that are the subject of active recovery programs with invasive species which are the subject of active eradication programs sets a bad precedent and may not be consistent with protections afforded to endangered species under HRS, Section 195D-4.

The Department would also like to note that a mechanism to address private landowner concerns about endangered species already exists through our Habitat Conservation Plan and Safe Harbor Agreement programs pursuant to HRS, Section 195D-21 and 22.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.C.R. 47**

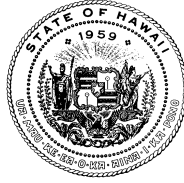
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE  
TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC,  
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP DEGRADATION  
CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII.

REPRESENTATIVE CLIFT TSUJI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: **March 13, 2015**  
**9:30 am**

Room Number: 312

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Uncertain
- 2 **Department Testimony:** H.C.R. 47 requests that the Department of Agriculture convene a task
- 3 force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental and regulatory
- 4 consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii.
- 5 The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) recognizes that invasive species in Hawaii have a
- 6 serious adverse impact on crop quality in Hawaii, and supports the intent of this resolution. We
- 7 respectfully defer to the Department of Agriculture regarding the appropriate next steps to
- 8 address this important problem.
- 9 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HCR 47**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK**  
**FORCE TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC,**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP**  
**DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII.**

REPRESENTATIVE CLIFF TSUJI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: March 13, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.

Room Number: 312

1 **Office Testimony:** The Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) offers these  
2 comments on HCR 47.

3 This resolution mistakenly includes endangered species and should delete all references  
4 to endangered species throughout the document. For example, page 1, lines 6-10 read “invasive  
5 and endangered species are affecting farmers statewide, and negative impacts are particularly  
6 acute where the invasive and endangered species are relatively recently introduced and  
7 traditional methods for control have not been established...” There can be no recently  
8 introduced endangered species because by definition, the species evolved in Hawai‘i a very long  
9 time ago. Endangered species are specifically protected by the federal government and there are  
10 also numerous state laws and regulations that are in effect to help prevent endangered species  
11 from becoming extinct and promote their recovery.

12 The Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) should be included as a member  
13 of the task force. Under Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 341, the OEQC is mandated to  
14 address the issues in this resolution, as reflected in the title, which include the following: to  
15 document, collect data and identify issues related to environmental consequences. The OEQC  
16 HRS 341 mandate is in recognition that “the quality of the environment is as important to the  
17 welfare of the people of Hawaii as is the economy of the State. The legislature further finds that

1 the determination of an optimum balance between economic development and environmental  
2 quality deserves the most thoughtful consideration, and the maintenance of the optimum quality  
3 of the environment deserves the most intensive care.”

4 The courts also have recognized the critical role OEQC plays in the state’s regulation of  
5 environmental issues as they relate to agriculture. For example, the *‘Ohana Pale Ke Ao v. Board*  
6 *of Agriculture* decision (2008) and the US District Court Order in *Hawaii Floriculture and*  
7 *Nursery Association v. County of Hawaii* (2014 ) confirm the importance of this role. In  
8 addition, OEQC is part of the Plant and Pest Advisory Board of the Department of  
9 Agriculture. It therefore makes perfect sense to include OEQC in the task force.

10 We also suggest that the task force include a section to focus on how invasive species are  
11 most commonly introduced and spread, and provide recommendation on how to reduce their  
12 introduction and spread.

13 Also, we suggest you amend page four, lines 7 to 10 to include public education on  
14 protocols to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive species.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Friday, March 13, 2015 at 9:30 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 47 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII.

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on HCR 47, which requests the Department of Agriculture to convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawai'i.

Although we appreciate that the intent of HCR 47 is to obtain a complete and comprehensive review, evaluation, and recommendations for management of all impacts of all invasive and endangered species with respect to agricultural crops, urban horticulture, and natural resources affecting rural or urban horticulture in Hawai'i, this is an enormous task. Thus, we must express strong reservations about the practicality of implementing HCR 47, which appropriates no funding for this daunting task, and asks that it be accomplished within a six month time frame.

Hawai'i is an island, and virtually all of the pests, plant diseases, and weeds impacting agricultural and other resources in the state are invasive species. Moreover, this is a moving target – a recent survey by the Department of Agriculture found that an average of 24 new insects are introduced to Hawai'i each year.

Hawai'i is also commonly referred to as “the endangered species capital of the world.” Given that endangered species are by definition rare and in danger of extinction, it is doubtful that many of these negatively affect crops, except to limit agricultural practices where conservation is deemed necessary. However, evaluation of all possible scenarios and impacts is a challenging task.



Testimony provided by the University of Hawai'i this session on HB 1040 (Relating to Invasive Species) stressed the great difficulty of evaluating the economic impact of multiple invasive species, and advised that a more practical approach is to focus on a single invasive pest. Such studies generally take from one to three years, depending upon the information available, as was the case with the recently completed economic evaluation of little fire ant in Hawai'i.

HCR 47 rightly points out the need for a coordinated approach to both mitigation of invasive species, and evaluation of the relationship of endangered species to agriculture and natural resources in Hawai'i. However, with no funds provided and a very short time frame, we do not believe that the approach described in HCR 47 is practical to implement, nor is likely to result in production of the information requested.

For the reasons stated above, while we appreciate the intent, we must express strong reservations about passage of HCR 47.

onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 11:22 AM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR47 on Mar 13, 2015 09:30AM

**HCR47**

Submitted on: 3/11/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 13, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii is in SUPPORT of HCR 47 (2015), which requests the Department of agriculture to convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii. (HCR 47)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 12:26 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HCR47 on Mar 13, 2015 09:30AM\*

**HCR47**

Submitted on: 3/11/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 13, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 13, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HCR 47  
REQUESTING A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS CROP DEGRADATION CAUSED BY  
INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII

Room 312  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB strongly supports HCR 47**, which requests HDOA to convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii.

Hawaii's agriculture industry is vital to the State's economy. Today, farmers and ranchers suffer from the intense strains of high overhead production costs and a continued battle against invasive species. Increased self-sufficiency is a priority in the State. Containment of expenses is a basic requirement to enable our farmers and ranchers to be viable and provide food, fiber and energy that is a cornerstone of self-sufficiency.

Invasive crop pests and endangered species threaten the viability of farming. Throughout Hawaii, farmers are struggling to address crop loss as a result of invasive pests or endangered species, especially when there is no established method to control them. For example, the Rose Ringed Parakeet threatens various crops on Kauai, including lychee and rambutan. The Nene Goose has destroyed countless Taro crops on Kauai and has even forced a Kamuela farmer on the island of Hawaii to shut down his farm. Hawaii's farming is clearly being threatened.

Most farmers and ranchers are observers and not trained wildlife biologists, university researchers, or economists who can document the economic and agricultural harms being caused by these damaging pests. Farmers and ranchers rely upon the expertise

of the Federal, State, and County governments to provide a unified effort on how to address issues such as these.

HFB strongly believes that HCR 47 provides an encouraging solution to a persisting problem that threatens the viability of Hawaii's agriculture. Through HCR 47, the HDOA task force will provide vital documentation of economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences, population assessments, and statewide best management protocols to confront these crop pests which seem to be unrecognized or unnoticed by governmental agencies as threatening our agricultural businesses. If the State truly supports Hawaii's agricultural industry, then measures such as HCR 47 need to be implemented for this economic sector to thrive toward sustainability and food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

# Kauai County Farm Bureau

*Affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation*

P.O. Box 3895, Lihue HI 96766-6895

808-855-5429

[admin@kauaicountyfarmbureau.org](mailto:admin@kauaicountyfarmbureau.org)

***The Voice of Kauai's Agriculture***



March 13, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
TESTIMONY ON House Concurrent Resolution 47  
REQUESTING A TASK FORCE BE FORMED TO ADDRESS CROP DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND  
ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII  
Room 312  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laurie Ho, President of the Kauai County Farm Bureau (**KCFB**). Organized in 1968, the KCFB has 365 farm family members. We serve as Kauai's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community. We support all forms of agriculture ~ big and small ~ organic and conventional ~ farmers & ranchers.

**KCFB strongly supports HCR 47**, which requests HDOA to convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii. We need validation and documentation that these animal pests are destroying our crops.

Agriculture is a vital sector to Kauai's economy. Today, farmers and ranchers suffer from the continued battle against both invasive and endangered species. As increased self-sufficiency becomes more of a priority in Hawaii. To enable our farmers and ranchers to remain viable and provide food, fiber and energy we believe is the cornerstone to Hawaii's self-sufficiency.

Invasive crop pests and endangered species threaten the viability of farming on Kauai. Kauai farmers are struggling to address this challenge especially when there is no established method to control these species. For example, the Rose Ringed Parakeet threatens various crops on Kauai, including Lychee and Rambutan. The Nene have destroyed countless Taro fields which, in turn, affects the Taro farmer's yields and then the farmer's bottomline. Our farmers are clearly being threatened.

We need trained wildlife biologists, university researchers, and economists who can document the economic and agricultural harms being caused by these damaging pests. Farmers and ranchers would like to see the expertise of the Federal, State, and County government agencies provide a unified effort on how to address issues such as these.

HCR 47 provides an encouraging solution to this persisting problem that threatens the expansion of Kauai's agriculture ventures. Through HCR 47, this HDOA task force will provide vital collaborative documentation of economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences, and population assessments.

~ continued ~

*"Kaua'i County Farm Bureau (KCFB) cultivates a thriving and prosperous agricultural sector, firmly rooted in the community, by working collaboratively to build long term support and providing a respected voice for Agriculture on Kauai " **adopted June 2012***

## **Kauai County Farm Bureau**

*Affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation*

P.O. Box 3895, Lihue HI 96766-6895

808-855-5429

[admin@kauaifarmbureau.org](mailto:admin@kauaifarmbureau.org)

***The Voice of Kauai's Agriculture***



It is our hope the documentation this task force gathers will validate our struggles resulting in statewide best management protocols to address these crop pests. These issues seem to be going unrecognized or unnoticed by governmental agencies as threatening our agricultural businesses. The State needs to strategize their efforts and work in concert with other government agencies to address these growing concerns.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this resolution,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Laurie Ho", is positioned above the printed name.

Laurie Ho, President

"Kaua'i County Farm Bureau (KCFB) cultivates a thriving and prosperous agricultural sector, firmly rooted in the community, by working collaboratively to build long term support and providing a respected voice for Agriculture on Kauai " **adopted June 2012**





# KAUA'I TARO GROWERS ASSOCIATION

March 13, 2015

TESTIMONY ON HCR 47  
REQUESTING A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS CROP DEGRADATION CAUSED BY  
INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII  
ROOM 312  
9:30 A.M.

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rodney Haraguchi, a taro farmer and Director for the Kauai County Farm Bureau (KFB) and President of the Kauai Taro Growers Association (KTGA). On behalf of the KFB and KTGA, we strongly support HCR 47 requesting the HDOA to convene a task force to conduct population assessments of invasive and endangered species and the impact on agricultural crops including botanical gardens, golf courses, watershed areas and individual homeowners. In addition to examine the rates at which the populations are increasing and to develop best management practices to control or translocate the endangered species as a management tool from agricultural areas.

This task force will also develop protocols to protect farms and ranches from the negative impact and assist wildlife agencies in developing habitats for Hawaii endangered species for translocation as a management tool. And develop public education protocols for explaining the negative impacts on agriculture and the steps the task force are taking to address the negative impacts.

Kauai currently supplies approximately 85% of the State's taro supply and Hanalei supplies about 65%. The Hanalei Refuge taro farmers have lost over 1 million pounds of taro since 2010 and what was once a temporary occurrence, they are seeing the problem continue year round at times, and every year. The population has increased geometrically and the endangered Hawaiian Coot and Mud hen consume the newly planted taro and the Nene consumes the immature 6 month old to 13 month old ready to harvest taro.

Fields that once harvested 20,000 pounds, the birds have eaten 96%, leaving only 4% or 800 pounds for the farmer. In addition to the lost taro, there is the loss of taro leaves and the valuable



seedlings (hulis) which are the stems from the harvest plant. Farmers are spending many hours transplanting eaten seedlings which could be used to plant another field, but to have it eaten again and again.

But it's not just the taro farmers, but other farmers as well. Hannah Huangping gave up 5 acres of vegetables when she lost over 2000 pounds of beets and now farms on just a small area. Lei Wann was just starting out but gave up when most of her vegetables were eaten. And Lance Yamashiro on the Big Island who at one time was supplying 40,000 pounds of vegetables per week to seven distributors and exporting to California from his 60 acres. After the Nenes ate his crops, he had to reduce down to only a 17,000 square feet green house producing 1,000 pounds per week, and in a recent conversation, he said he quit farming. He told his 2 daughters in college not to come back to the farm and this also broke up his marriage. The birds are consuming sweet potatoes, beets, cucumbers, beans, t-leaves, taro, taro leaves, taro seedlings, leafy greens, broccoli, kale and probably many more edible greens in Waikoko, Hanalei, Moloaa, Kapaa, Kealia, Koloa and possibly other areas on Kauai.

We talk about sustainability and the need for Hawaii to be self-sufficient, but if we don't help the existing farmers to stay afloat, Hawaii can never be sustainable. Nationwide only 1.8% of the entire population are farmers and in Hawaii's total population it's only .5% and is decreasing. The reason the small percentage of farmers could sustain the rest of the population is because of the advancement in technology and efficiency to produce in volume. One farmer is feeding on average about 160 people besides his family. As our population continues to increase and we lose our farmers and our valuable farm land, this is a recipe for disaster that needs an urgent solution.

We need to create an incentive for everyone to participate with the endangered species and not be a liability. A possible incentive would be to pay someone \$200 per bird counted on their property to encourage participation to count and protect the birds. About 50% of the birds are on government property and the Federal ESA could pay the State and private stewards. At the point when a carrying capacity for a steward is reached, then translocation as a management tool, to other refuges until it can be down listed to threatened and eventually delisted.

There are other possible solutions that will be win-win and this Task Force will be able to develop, provide direction and assistance.

Mahalo for your time and giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support of HCR 47.



# KAUA'I TARO GROWERS ASSOCIATION

March 13, 2015

TESTIMONY ON HCR 47  
REQUESTING A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS CROP DEGRADATION CAUSED BY  
INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII  
ROOM 312  
9:30 A.M.

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karol Haraguchi, a taro farmer and member of the Kauai Taro Growers Association. You've heard the testimony from my husband, Rodney Haraguchi and I would like to correlate my testimony on some statistics and will show the urgency of finding a workable solution and the urgency to strongly support HCR 47 and if funding is needed for this task force, to provide the amount necessary for the task force to fulfil their assignments.

Based on the million pounds of taro that the farmers in Hanalei has lost since 2010, this translates to at least \$123,250 in tax revenues to the State from the farm gate value to the wholesale and retail level. The amount of hulis lost is approximately 625,000 hulis enough to plant and transplant approximately 62 acres of taro. With the loss of the hulis there is also the loss of the taro leaves for laulaus and chicken luau.

What is of major concern also, is that we are also losing the Hawaiian varieties, such as the Maui Lehua because for some reason the birds prefer it. But as this variety gets scarce, they are consuming whatever variety is available. As Hawaii's State Plant, taro also needs protection.

On the mainland in the Tulare Refuge, there was a case of botulism where birds were dying. One conclusion was that the population density may have contributed to this die off which they calculated to 11 birds per acre as too high a density. Of the number of birds counted on our farm we are averaging over 18 birds per acre, but at times we are seeing over 150 birds in one taro field that is less than an acre in size. There have been several episodes of botulism on the Hanalei Refuge and other areas on Kauai where over 500 birds have already died. The question is the ideal density and carrying capacity for these birds?

Time is running out for farmers in Hawaii to sustain their farms and as the losses and expenses exceeds their income to make a living, they will have no other choice but to give up. We ask for support and more so to see the urgency that a workable solution be found as soon as possible. Mahalo for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

**Post Office Box 427, Hanalei, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96714**

onishi3 - Timothy

---

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 12:12 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HCR47 on Mar 13, 2015 09:30AM\*

**HCR47**

Submitted on: 3/11/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 13, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

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Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 2:18 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: hvtaro@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR47 on Mar 13, 2015 09:30AM

**HCR47**

Submitted on: 3/11/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 13, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodney Haraguchi	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Copies of testimony will be presented at the time of hearing.

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onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 2:19 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: hvtaro@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR47 on Mar 13, 2015 09:30AM

**HCR47**

Submitted on: 3/11/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 13, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karol Haraguchi	Individual	Support	Yes

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